

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for testing a continuously variable transmission component comprising:

providing ~~a rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk comprising a contact surface for contacting with another transmission component, said ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk being made of steel and having a ~~layer~~ region from the surface formed at 0.4 mm or less from the contact surface thereof;

measuring, by non-destructive inspection, the size of non-metallic inclusions in said ~~layer~~ region from the surface of said ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk;

and

determining the ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk to be an acceptable continuously variable transmission component when the ~~layer~~ region from the surface does not contain a non-metallic inclusion having the maximum diameter of 0.115 mm or more.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A process for testing a continuously variable transmission component comprising:

providing ~~a rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk comprising a contact surface for contacting with another transmission component, said ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk being made of steel and having a ~~layer~~ region from the surface formed at 0.5 mm or less from the contact surface thereof;

measuring, by non-destructive inspection, the size of non-metallic inclusions in said ~~layer~~ region from the surface of said ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk;

and

determining the ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk to be an acceptable continuously variable transmission component when the ~~layer~~ region from the surface does not contain a non-metallic inclusion having the maximum diameter of 0.1 mm or more.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for evaluating a continuously variable transmission component, said method comprising:

providing a ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk comprising a contact surface for contacting with another transmission component, said ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk being made of steel and having a ~~layer~~ region from the surface formed at 0.5 mm or less from the contact surface thereof;

disposing a desired surface of said ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk to be measured and an ultrasonic detection probe within an ultrasonic wave transmissive medium;

transmitting an ultrasonic wave, having a frequency in the range of 5 MHz - 30 MHz, from said ultrasonic detection probe to said ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk through said ultrasonic wave transmissive medium;

detecting and evaluating a non-metallic inclusion existing in the area of 0.5 mm or less from said desired surface of said ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk in accordance with an ultrasonic echo reflected by said ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk; and

disqualifying said ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk when the thus detected non-metallic inclusion has the maximum diameter of 0.1 mm or more.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein said ultrasonic wave is transmitted to said ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk according to at least one of an oblique defect detect method and a vertical defect detect method.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein said oblique defect detect method is performed under the condition that an incident angle with respect to said desired surface of said ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk is in a range of 10 degree to 30 degree and said vertical defect detect method is performed under the condition that an incident angle with respect to said surface of said bearing ring is in a range of 0 degree to 10 degree.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein said detecting and evaluating step comprises:

rotating the ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk about its rotation axis.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein said detecting and evaluating step further comprises:

moving said probe so as to keep a predetermined distance between said ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk and said probe.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein said detecting and evaluating step comprises:

rotating the ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk about its rotation axis; and

relatively moving said ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk and said probe along its rotation axis and in a direction substantially perpendicular to said rotation axis so as to keep a predetermined distance between said desired surface of said ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk to be measured and said probe,

whereby all of said desired surface of said ~~rolling member~~ at least one of an input disk and an output disk is scanned by said probe.